IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of introducing a substance into plant tissue of a plant having branches, the method comprising:

removing branch tissue to expose conductive tissue of a branch;

contacting the exposed conductive tissue of the branch with the substance; and

~~wherein~~ increasing an amount of the substance that is absorbed through the conductive tissue of the branch ~~while~~ by inhibiting means ~~is~~ being carried out in order to inhibit transpiration through a leaf on the branch or to inhibit water requirement by the leaf, such that a driving force of transpiration provides a flow of the substance into the conductive tissue.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibiting means is removal of at least one of the leaves.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibiting means is shading of at least one of the leaves.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibiting means is closure of stomata of the leaves.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 4, wherein the closure is accomplished by introducing into the tissue of the leaves, a chemical which closes the stomata.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the conductive tissue consists of vessels.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is a dicotyledonous plant.